



Quality in Careers >>>>

QUALITY IN CAREERS WEBSITE ©

CEIAG Case Study:

Leek High School, Leek, Staffordshire Moorlands

The School

Leek High School is a 13-19 mixed comprehensive school with approximately 400 students on roll. Situated on the outskirts of the town, the school occupies a single site with both traditional and modern buildings. The catchment serves mainly the eastern side of Leek and much of the Staffordshire Moorlands, with around half of students coming from the town and half from the rural areas. Leek is a vibrant market town with a population of around 20,000.

Leek High's grammar school origins go back to 1900, with the present site on Springfield Road having been occupied since reorganisation in 1965. Leek High has a strong sense of community and has shared its campus with The Meadows Special School since 2012. The school operates Leek Federation Sixth Form jointly with Westwood College offering two campuses, a broader range of courses and excellent facilities across both sites. In 2016, following conversion to academy status, Leek High became part of "The Talentum Learning Trust" which currently includes two secondary schools, one middle school and six primary schools.

Leek High School's vision is *"to inspire a love of learning in every young person so that they believe in their dreams and celebrate achievement"*. This is promoted through the school's core values of *"Inspire, Believe and Achieve"*.

Every student at Leek High is encouraged to aim high and accept no limits. Students are treated as individuals - different abilities and interests are recognised and celebrated in the school's belief that everyone can fulfil their potential through dedication and hard work.

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Leek High is very proud to be the first school in North Staffordshire to **"fully meet the Quality in Careers Standard"** (accredited by Entrust as the Licensed Awarding Body) for demonstrating a robust and coherent approach to managing the quality of its CEIAG provision.

The Quality in Careers Standard recognises the high quality of its careers programme for all students, providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to make successful transitions from full-time statutory and further education.

The Quality in Careers assessors were *“impressed by the school’s vision, passion and enthusiasm and noted how effectively the school staff work together as a whole, fully understanding and embracing the importance and relevance of effective CEIAG.”*

Leek High delivers a CEIAG programme for all students across all year groups centred around WOW (World of Work). The WOW programme is embedded into every aspect of students’ work. All curriculum PowerPoints used in class are marked with the WOW symbol where they relate specifically to a job role or career journey. In class, teachers consistently refer to the application of skills and knowledge being emphasised and practised directly to the working world. Every staff member has a list of jobs they have done in the past displayed in their classroom and use this to promote discussions with students, increasing awareness of career opportunities and pathways students were not aware of.

Leek High works with a number of external colleges, training providers, universities and specialist support agencies to ensure students receive the individual information and guidance they need to progress into quality learning outcomes whether education or work-based.

Leek High contracts with an external careers guidance service and collaborates with its commissioned Careers Adviser on all aspects of CEIAG within the curriculum. The school includes the Careers Adviser in its wider CEIAG team and values their contribution on how to use sources of funding effectively to raise confidence, motivation and aspirations across all cohorts. The Head Teacher and Governors are keen to provide all students with access to impartial CEIAG and ensure the Year 11 cohort are offered at least one careers interview during the academic year. The Careers Adviser also delivers group programmes to tutor groups on GCSEs, Post 16 and Post 18 options. Careers guidance is offered to all 6th Form students by appointment and weekly drop in clinics.

The Careers Leader has the full backing of the senior leadership team and Governors to continuously evaluate and develop the careers programme. This includes funding new resources such as Employer Business Breakfasts and internet-based careers packages to establish innovative ways of teaching high quality career-related learning.

The school’s careers programme and student entitlement has been developed in accordance with the DfE’s Careers Strategy (2018), the Career Development Institute *“Framework”* and the eight Gatsby benchmarks for *Good Career Guidance*.

Measuring the impact

Monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the careers programme takes place regularly and the very low number of NEETs and positive transitions for students illustrates the impact the programme is making.

The school offers a one-week block of work experience for all year 10 students and an additional week for year 12 students. As a result, students are successful in gaining apprenticeships and other career opportunities when they move on after school. Views are sought from all stakeholders and the programme evolves year on year to consider the needs of students and the local, national and global jobs markets.

Every year the school has a high number of participants for the National Citizen Programme and it is one of their Champion Schools. This programme enables students to develop their skills further and provides opportunities for them to work within their community, having a direct positive impact.

Heads of subjects are continuing to expand their own departmental links with employers who regularly support teaching and learning in school. Potential careers and pathways are featured within school publications and at progress and options evenings.

CEIAG Quality

Leek High has been recognised for its good CEIAG practice since 2014 when it became one of the first schools in Staffordshire to enrol students on the ESF-funded Work Skills programme in collaboration with Entrust Skills & Employability Service. This continues today through the ESF-funded Positive Directions project. To date all students enrolling on the programme have completed successfully completed and entered structured learning programmes or employment with training.

The March 2022 OfSTED inspection noted *“pupils have access to high-quality careers advice and guidance”* and *“the school meets the Gatsby Benchmarks and requirements of the Baker Clause”*.

The school has forged close links with the Careers & Enterprise Company and uses the Compass self-assessment tool to self-evaluate its CEIAG provision. The Careers Lead has developed a strong working partnership with the Enterprise Adviser from Ornum Foods resulting in effective employer-led contacts both in and outside school.

Leek High is part of the Staffordshire Careers Hub, collaborating with other schools across the county to share best practice and CPD resources. The Careers Leader is keen to support other schools wherever possible.

The careers programme is formally audited annually. Feedback from teaching staff, students, parents and the Careers Adviser is used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme and identify areas for development. The school also uses destination data from the local authority to help assess whether they are providing suitable and appropriate information to students at key transition points.

Having fully met the **Quality in Careers Standard**, Leek High is keen to continue developing its CEIAG provision and support other schools working towards the national Award.

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(p) September 2019 updated October 2022

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